

# Talking Sport

**Week – 20**  
**Haider Rashid**  
**Iraqi rower**



**BBC**  
**LEARNING**  
**ENGLISH**

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## 1) Phrases with 'best'

In the video Haider used the phrase 'do my best' meaning to perform the best he can.

*"I will do my best to qualify."*

Below are some more phrases with the word 'best':

make the best of:

make a bad situation as enjoyable as possible

the best part of:

most of

hope for the best:

to hope that something will happen the way you want it, even if it doesn't seem probable

best of luck:

used to wish someone luck/success before attempting something difficult

Now complete the sentences with the correct phrase. The form of the phrase may need to be changed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ for your exam! I hope you will do well.
2. I don't know if I will get this new job, but I am going to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The weather was awful on Saturday, but I \_\_\_\_\_ it and cleaned and tidied the house. I have been planning on doing that for a long time.
4. I spent \_\_\_\_\_ the day painting that room. It took ages!

## 2) Wild

In the video we heard that Haider was given a wild card in the last Olympics. This means he was given special permission to compete even though he didn't qualify.

*"Haider was given a wild card entry to the Olympics in Beijing"*

The word 'wild' has many different meanings.

Using 'wild' as an adjective – the meaning changes depending on what noun it is used with e.g.

a wild animal/plant:	an animal/plant that lives in its natural environment
wild weather:	rough and stormy weather
a wild guess:	a guess that is not based on facts or knowledge
a wild party:	a party that is not controlled and is extreme

'Wild' can also be used as a noun:

in the wild:	an area that is natural and undisturbed by human activity
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Now complete the sentences with one of the following phrases – wild animals, a wild guess, in the wild, a wild party

1. Foxes, lions and bears are \_\_\_\_\_.
2. It is just \_\_\_\_\_, but I think that the restaurant is around the corner.
3. There are not many tigers left \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Paul organised \_\_\_\_\_ on Friday night!

## Answers

### 1) Phrases with 'best'

1. Best of luck for your exam! I hope you will do well.
2. I don't know if I will get this new job, but I am going to hope for the best.
3. The weather was awful on Saturday, but I made the best of it and cleaned and tidied the house. I have been planning on doing that for a long time.
4. I spent the best part of the day painting that room. It took ages!

### 2) Wild

1. Foxes, lions and bears are wild animals.
2. It is just a wild guess, but I think that the restaurant is around the corner.
3. There are not many tigers left in the wild.
4. Paul organised a wild party on Friday night!

## Script

### Presenter

Hi I'm Natalie and welcome to Talking Sport.

Today we are hearing about a rower from Iraq and learning the words, determined and merit.

Rower Haider Rashid is from Iraq and is aiming to qualify for the London 2012 Olympics.

At the last Olympics in Beijing, Haider was given a wild card entry, which means he was given special permission to compete even though he hadn't qualified.

But this time Haider wants to make it to the Olympics on his own abilities.

Let's hear a bit more about Haider.

Listen for the words determined and merit.

### Clip

This is Haider Rashid, the single Iraqi rowing athlete in his home city of Baghdad, one of the most violent in the world. Haider was given a wild card entry to the Olympics in Beijing but he's determined to make it to London on his own merit. If we work right and do it the right way, I think it is possible to qualify, so I will do my best to qualify because I need to.

### Presenter

Listen again for the words determined and merit

### Clip

This is Haider Rashid, the single Iraqi rowing athlete in his home city of Baghdad, one of the most violent in the world. Haider was given a wild card entry to the Olympics in Beijing but he's determined to make it to London on his own merit. If we work right and do it the right way, I think it is possible to qualify, so I will do my best to qualify because I need to.

### Presenter

determined

Determined means to really want to do something and not let anything stop you

Haider is determined to go to the Olympics.

merit

In this context merit means to deserve or earn the right to compete in the Olympics.

He's determined to make it to London on his own merit.

Well we have learnt the words determined and merit.

Let's listen to some people in London using the adjective determined and the noun determination.

Vox pops

I need a lot of determination to succeed in my job.

I am determined to do well in my work.

I am determined to have a career in music.

It takes a lot of determination to do well at university.

On screen

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I am determined to do well in my work.

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Presenter

I'm Natalie and that's all from Talking Sport.

See you next time.